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THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 2, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM supports Raised Senate Bill 661 "An Act Expanding the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to Include Non-Carbonated Beverages" and Raised Senate Bill 662 "An Act Expanding the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to Include Water Bottles"

These bills would, among other things, **expand the value of the deposit - from 5 cents to 10 cents - and the items covered under the "bottle bill"** to include a variety of additional beverages.

The Connecticut Audubon Society has cited that "the current deposit system was and still is the best way to control litter on streets, beaches and in our parks." About 66-70% of containers are returned for redemption. Those containers that are discarded or littered are usually picked up and returned by others for the redemption value.

Absent the expansion of the bottle bill, there are only two options for disposal of these materials: (1) the current method, whereby these items are disposed in the trash and account for a large volume of municipal solid waste expenses - or - (2) force the responsibility of recycling these products back onto the for-profit entities that produce and sell them.

CCM urges the committee to **favorably report these bills.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of
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